

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-02 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /092 W

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R 120825Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1680

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0209

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0371

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD JULY 5-11,1976

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING THE JULY 6 INFORMAL SESSION OF
THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, POLISH REP
DABROWA, AFTER NOTING THAT DATA TABLED JUNE 10 BY THE
EAST "TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL CATEGORIES OF FORCES IN THE

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AREA AND ALSO WESTERN VIEWS REGARDING THE FORCE

DEFINITION ISSUE, CATEGORICALLY STATED THE EAST WOULD NOT GO BEYOND THESE POINTS IN ANSWERING WESTERN QUESTIONS ON THE TOPIC UNTIL THE WEST PROVIDED UPDATED DATA. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE SESSION, BOTH SIDES STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE REDUCTION PROPOSALS AND THERE WAS FURTHER DISCUSSION OF REDUCTION COMMITMENTS BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. IN THE ONLY STATEMENT MADE AT THE JULY 8 PLENARY MEETING, UK REP ROSE CONTRASTED THE UNACCEPTABLE EASTERN APPROACH WITH THE EQUITABLE AND PRACTICAL WAYS IN WHICH THE WEST PROPOSED TO DEAL IN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE REALITIES OF THE EXISTING, UNSATISFACTORY SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING THE JULY 6 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA TALKS, POLISH REP DABROWA TOOK THE INITIATIVE TO REFER TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE PREVIOUS SESSION BY WESTERN REPS CONCERNING DATA TABLED JUNE 10 BY THE EAST. AFTER REITERATING THAT THE EAST REQUIRED UPDATED NATO FIGURES FROM THE WEST BEFORE ENTERING A DATA DISCUSSION, DABROWA WENT ON TO STATE THAT EASTERN DATA "TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL CATEGORIES OF FORCES IN THE AREA" AND ALSO "TOOK INTO CONSIDERATION VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS REGARDING THE FORCE DEFINITION ISSUE." POLISH REP DID NOT FURTHER CLARIFY THIS AMBIGUOUS STATEMENT. RATHER, HE REPEATED CATEGORICALLY THE REFUSAL OF THE EAST TO ANSWER FURTHER DATA QUESTIONS UNTIL THE WEST TABLED UPDATED FIGURES ON NATO FORCES IN THE AREA AND SAID THAT, IN THE MEANTIME, ANY SUCH QUESTIONS WOULD BE SIMPLY MET WITH A REPETITION OF THESE TWO POINTS.

3. IN RECENT EAST-WEST BILATERAL EXCHANGES, EASTERN REPS HAVE EMPHASIZED THE EFFORT IT HAD TAKEN TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FROM MOSCOW TO RELEASE TO THE WEST DATA ON WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE REDUCTIONS AREA. WITHOUT PRESSING THE ISSUE, EASTERN REPS HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THE WEST'S DELAY IN TABLING COMPARABLE NATO TOTALS. EASTERN REPS HAVE ALSO LATELY MADE SEVERAL REFERENCES BILATERALLY TO FRENCH MILITARY REORGANIZATION

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PLANS, BUT SO FAR NOT IN A WAY AS TO INDICATE EASTERN AWARENESS OF THE POSITION TAKEN IN NATO BY FRANCE ON THE WESTERN RESPONSE TO THE JUNE 10 EASTERN DATA MOVE.

4. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE JULY 6 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EAST'S FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL, CLAIMED THAT, IN PROPOSING ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS, THE WEST SOUGHT UNILATERAL

ADVANTAGE GIVEN THE EXISTING EQUILIBRIUM OF FORCES IN THE AREA, AND AGAIN CITED WESTERN UNWILLINGNESS SPECIFICALLY TO GUARANTEE STAGE TWO REDUCTIONS AS EVIDENCE THAT NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS DESIRED TO AVOID SUCH REDUCTIONS. WESTERN REPS SAID THAT THE EAST UNDERVALUED THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OBLIGATIONS PROPOSED BY THE WEST FOR ITSELF, THE PROPER ASSESSMENT OF WHICH REQUIRED ASSIGNING DUE WEIGHT TO THE GEOGRAPHIC FACTOR. WESTERN REPS ALSO NOTED THAT RECENT EASTERN STATEMENTS CONFIRMED THAT, IN ITS FEBRUARY 19 PROPOSAL, THE EAST WAS ASKING NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS TO ACCEPT IN A FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE ORIGINAL EASTERN REDUCTION PROGRAM.

5. UK REP ROSE MADE THE ONLY STATEMENT GIVEN AT THE JULY 8 PLENARY MEETING. HIS PRESENTATION REVIEWED THE BASIC REALITIES OF THE EXISTING, UNSATISFACTORY SECURITY SITUATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE, INCLUDING, IN PARTICULAR, THE DISPARITIES IN GROUND FORCES FAVORING THE EAST AND THE PERMANENT ADVANTAGE CONFERRED ON THE EAST BY GEOGRAPHY. UK REP PROCEEDED TO CONTRAST THE UNACCEPTABLE EASTERN APPROACH WITH THE EQUITABLE AND PRACTICAL WAYS IN WHICH THE WEST PROPOSED TO TAKE THOSE REALITIES INTO ACCOUNT IN AN AGREEMENT.

6. ON JULY 7, THE AD HOC GROUP CONSIDERED THE GROWING RISK THAT CURRENT FRENCH OBJECTIONS IN NATO AGAINST INCLUDING FRENCH FORCES IN THE FRG IN ANY UPDATED NATO MANPOWER FIGURES TABLED IN VIENNA WOULD SOON LEAK TO THE WESTERN PRESS. THE GROUP ADOPTED CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE ONLY ON AN IF ASKED BASIS WHICH WOULD AVOID ANY DIRECT COMMENT ON THE
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